

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 00899 251524Z

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SUBJECT: CAMEROONIAN DELEGATES TO IPU MEETING IN BUCHAREST,
ROMANIA

REF: STATE 54622

1. THREE MAN GURC DELEGATION TO IPU MEETING BUCHAREST WILL BE
HEADED BY CAMEROONIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT SALOMON TANDENG
MUNA AND ALSO INCLUDE ASSEMBLY VICE-PRESIDENT EL HADJ MOUSSA YAYA
AND ASSEMBLY SECRETARY-GENERAL JOSEPH CHARLES DOUMBA.

2. MUNA IS ANGLOPHONE WEST CAMEROONIAN, AGE 64, FROM BAMENDA
AREA. A STRONG ADVOCATE OF UNIFICATION BETWEEN WEST (BRITISH) AND
EAST (FRENCH) CAMEROON, MUNA FORMERLY HELD VARIETY MINISTERIAL
POSTS DURING FEDERAL REPUBLIC PERIOD (1961-72) IN WEST CAMEROON
GOVT (PUBLIC WORKS, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, FINANCE, PRIME MINISTER)
AND IN FEDERAL GOVT (MINISTER TRANSPORT, POST AND TELECOMM-
UNICATIONS AND THEN VICE-PRESIDENT). ELECTED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PRESIDENT JUNE 1973 AFTER CAMEROON TRANSFORMED INTO UNITARY
REPUBLIC AND VICE-PRESIDENCY ELININATED. HE DEEPLY RELIGIOUS
PERSON (PROTESTANT) WHO FINDS INSPIRATION IN BIBLE AND PRAYER;
HAS MET AND REPORTEDLY ADMIRES BILLY GRAHAM. ELECTED JULY 1973
PRESIDENT OF AFRICAN BOY SCOUT COMMITTEE AT SECOND PANAFRICAN
SCOUT CONGRESS AND PARTICIPATES IN ACTIVITIES WORLD SCOUTING

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PAGE 02 YAOUND 00899 251524Z

COMMITTEE. ATTENDED 24TH WORLD SCOUTING CONGRESS NAIROBI LAST

JULY. VERY INTERESTED AMERICAN SPACE PROGRAM. MET AND TALKED EXTENSIVELY WITH APOLLO 17 ASTRONAUTS DURING THEIR VISIT TO CAMEROON JUNE 1973. HOBBY STAMP COLLECTING, ESPECIALLY OF INDEPENDENT AFRICAN NATIONS. PRO-WEST AND FRIENDLY TO U.S., AT LEAST FOUR OF HIS CHILDREN HAVE STUDIED IN THE U.S.

3. MOUSSA YAYA, AGE 48, IS DEVOUT MUSLIM FROM PRESIDENT AHIDJO'S HOME REGION OF GAROUA IN NORTH CAMEROON. KNOWN AS DEDICATED FOLLOWER OF AHIDJO SINCE LATE 1940'S, PLAYING PRINCIPAL ROLE AS PARTY ORGANIZER AND PRIME MOVER ON NORTHERN POLITICAL SCENE. CLAIMS BE "SOCIALIST" BUT NO PARTICULAR ANTI-WESTERN FLAVOR. REPORTEDLY SUSPICIOUS CATHOLIC CHURCH INFLUENCE AND ROLE IN CAMEROON AND PERSONALLY DEDICATED TO MUSLIM DOMINATION OF CAMEROONIAN POLITICAL LIFE. HE HAS TRAVELLED WIDELY AFRICA AND EUROPE, VISITED U.S. TWICE, AND ALSO MADE FAR EAST TRIP 1960 TO ATTEND ASIAN PEOPLE'S ANTI-COMMUNIST LEAGUE MEETING TAIPEI. FEW INTERESTS ASIDE FROM POLITICS. ORIGINALLY TRAINED AND WORKED AS VETERINARIAN. FLUENT FRENCH BUT NO ENGLISH.

4. DOUMBA IN LATE THIRTIES, DYNAMIC, LAWYER BY PROFESSION, WITH SPECIAL INTEREST AND EXPERTISE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW. ACTIVE MEMBER INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES GENERAL AND HAS ATTENDED PREVIOUS IPU MEETINGS. HE MORE OF PARLIAMENTARY TECHNICIAN THAN POLITICIAN. DOUMBA VISITED U.S. BRIEFLY ABOUT 1969, SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH, AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL TO EMBASSY.

5. REP. DERWINSKI AND OTHER MEMBERS USDEL MET MUNA (THEN CAMEROON'S VP) ON TRIP TO BUEA DURING 1972 IPU MEETING IN YAOUNDE. PRESUMABLE ALSO MET MOUSSA YAYA (MEMBER OF CAMDEL AND ALSO MEMBER OF INTERPARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL) AND DOUMBA (SECRETARY TO CAMDEL).
MOORE

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